

REMARKS

Claims 1, 5-7, 12-14, 18-21, 25, 28-30, 36-37 and 48 were previously pending in this application. Claims 21 and 25 have been cancelled. Claims 14, 18 and 36 have been amended. Claims 14 and 18 have been amended to recite that the isolated dendritic cells are treated *in vitro* or *ex vivo* with isolated activated platelets or membrane microparticles thereof which contain P selectin. Support for the amendment can be found at least on page 9, lines 9-12 of the specification as filed. Claim 36 has been amended to recite that the composition contains an antigen and that the dendritic cells are loaded with or transfected to express the antigen. Support for the amendment can be found in claims 37, 39 and 40 as originally filed. New claims 51 and 52 have been added to cover subject matter originally claimed in claims 19 and 20; support can be found in claims 19 and 20 as filed. No new matter has been added.

Allowed Claims

Applicant acknowledges that claims 1, 5, 7, 12, 13, 28, 30, 37 and 48 have been allowed.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner maintained the rejection of claims 14, 18-21, and 25 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as not enabled. Claims 14 and 18 have been amended to overcome this rejection. Claims 21 and 25 have been canceled.

The Examiner has indicated that the claims as previously presented lacked enablement for methods that include administering *in vivo* platelets or membrane microparticles thereof as a way to modify dendritic cells. Applicant has amended the claims to specifically address the Examiner's concerns. Amended claims 14 and 18 now recite treating the isolated dendritic cells *in vitro* or *ex vivo* with isolated activated platelets or membrane microparticles thereof which contain P selectin to form platelet modified dendritic cells. This is acknowledged by the Examiner to be described in the working examples (Office Action at page 4), and thus claims 14 and 18 are enabled.

In addition, the Examiner indicated a lack of enablement for "membrane microparticles thereof which contain P selectin" in that Applicant's specification allegedly is silent regarding methods of preparing such membrane microparticles. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner on this point, because it is well known in the art to make membrane microparticles. In

addition, given Applicant's teaching regarding P-selectin on platelet membranes, one of ordinary skill in the art would know how to obtain membrane microparticles that express P-selectin, such as by antibody recognition or by other means well known to one of ordinary skill in the art.

To facilitate allowance of the claims, however, Applicant has amended the claims to remove platelet membrane microparticles from the claims.

Applicant believes that the amendments to the claims obviate the grounds for the Examiner's rejections. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 14, 18-21 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected claim 36 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as anticipated by Bondanza et al. (J. Leuk. Biol. Suppl. 2:70 (abstract F17), 1998) as evidenced by Whiss et al., (Cell Adh. Commun. 6(4):289-300, 1998).


Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration in view of the amendment made to claim 36. Claim 36 has been amended to recite that the composition contains an antigen and that the dendritic cells are loaded with or transfected to express the antigen.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application should now be in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after this amendment, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the Applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

Respectfully submitted,
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